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*Ander Crenshaw*  
PRSRT STD M.C.



CONGRESSMAN  
**Ander  
Crenshaw**

## Ander Crenshaw Stands Up for Northeast Florida's Military Bases

Congress approved the President's request for a round of base closures in 2005. The recently passed bill revises previous base closure procedures to create a fair and objective process that places national security as the principal objective, closes loopholes, and ensures that base closing decisions support military force structure and strategy.

Previous rounds of base closings were fraught with bureaucratic policies, inaccurate cost and savings estimates, and unreliable data. Those closures shut down 451 installations, representing a base structure reduction of 21%. Remarkably, no one has been able to show Congress any real savings associated with these closures.

The next round of closures can be stopped if the Secretary of Defense does not certify that his recommendations will result in annual net savings for each of the services by 2011. Under the new law, the Department of Defense and the independent Base Realignment and Closure Commission must consider the extent and timing of the costs and savings, the impact of potential environmental remediation costs and the impact on existing communities in the vicinity of military installations. These are all improvements over previous rounds.

We are at war and it is essential that we continue to protect America, both at home and abroad. Northeast Florida bases and servicemembers have been involved in the War on Terrorism. Under any procedures established by the Department of Defense during this new round of closures, our bases, and the strategic role they play in our overall national defense, will be considered and evaluated.

The strategic importance of these national military assets is unmistakable and I will fight any attempt to move bases or commands out of Northeast Florida. I will work diligently with my colleagues to insure that the Department of Defense meets each and every requirement and adheres to the protections Congress incorporated into the new base closure round.



Crenshaw with top military officials discussing national defense and the military budget. General James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps; Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy; Admiral Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations.

## Congressman Ander Crenshaw Hosts First Normandy Medal Program

We, as Americans, continue to owe a debt of gratitude to those who defend our freedoms and our borders. However, we are just beginning to understand the great sacrifices paid by those who fought during battles like Operation Overlord at Normandy.

In 2001, I launched the Fourth Congressional District Normandy Medal of the Jubilee of Liberty Program. Since that time, approximately ninety veterans of the 1944 Normandy Invasion have submitted applications to receive this special honor.

On November 10, these special honorees gathered at Naval Station Mayport, where I had the privilege of presenting these veterans with commemorative medals. This special medal is being made available to honor veterans who risked their lives for freedom between 6 June 1944 and 15 September 1944 in the Normandy invasion.

For information about next year's medal program, please contact my District Office.



Crenshaw hosts local Normandy Invasion Veterans at Naval Station Mayport as they receive the Jubilee of Liberty Medal.



This Progress Report of the 107th Congress was written to inform you, the taxpayers of the 4th District, about important issues before Congress. As your Representative, I believe it is important for you to have this information.

### Ander Crenshaw's Offices

Find more information at:  
[WWW.HOUSE.GOV/CRENSHAW](http://WWW.HOUSE.GOV/CRENSHAW)

**Washington Office**  
510 Cannon Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
phone: 202-225-2501  
fax: 202-225-2504

**District Offices**  
1061 Riverside Avenue  
Suite 100  
Jacksonville, FL 32204  
phone: 904-598-0481  
fax: 904-598-0486  
  
140 S. Atlantic Avenue  
Suite 240  
Ormond Beach, FL 32176  
phone: 386-672-0754  
fax: 386-673-8964

Veterans' Report – Winter 2002

# Protecting Our Freedom

# Respecting Our Veterans

## Keeping Our National Defenses Strong

I believe that the number one responsibility of the federal government is to protect American lives. The only way to keep America safe is to keep America strong.

The cornerstone of an effective defense remains a strong, well-trained and well-equipped United States military. If America wishes to remain a superpower in the 21st century, we must invest the resources in our military.

As a Member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have focused on the quality of life and modernization issues facing our military. Months of hard work since I have been in office culminated in the most significant defense budget increase since the mid-1980's and nearly \$513 million in funding for critical military projects in Northeast Florida. The bill includes the following projects:

- **Naval Station Mayport** will receive \$16.420 million to construct a new bachelors' enlisted quarters and \$24 million to build a new medical/dental facility.
- The Navy's budget will receive an additional \$1 million to use at **Naval Station Mayport** to start development of technology to assist the SH-60 fleet of helicopters.
- **Blount Island** will receive \$2.5 million to construct a readiness support site facility.
- The **Naval Air Reserve at Naval Air Station Jacksonville** will receive \$3.744 million for renovations to a hanger for the VR-58 squadron.
- **Northrop Grumman's St. Augustine facility** will receive \$259.7 million to continue the Navy's E-2C Multiyear Procurement. Five aircraft will be produced next year at the plant.
- **Northrop Grumman's St. Augustine facility** will also receive \$25 million to retrofit an E-2C aircraft. Additionally, the facility will receive a portion of the \$96 million slated for the Navy's E-2C Radar Modernization Program.
- The Naval Environmental Compliance Operations Monitoring System (NECOMS), which will be administered at either **Naval Air Station Jacksonville** or **Naval Station Mayport**, will receive \$2 million.
- **Naval Air Station Jacksonville's Depot** will receive a portion of the \$6 million slated for the Commercial Technologies for Maintenance Activities (CTMA).
- **Camp Blanding** will receive \$6.9 million to construct a joint weather readiness-training complex.
- **Cecil Field** will receive \$2 million to convert the base to be used for commercial, educational, residential and recreational purposes.
- **The Navy** will receive \$62.8 million for sonobuoys, which are primary sensors used for detection of submarines by air.



## Crenshaw Works to Provide Long Promised Benefits

One of the best ways to honor Florida's Veterans is to ensure that they receive their hard earned and long promised benefits. I have fought and will continue to fight for Florida's Veterans. In 2001, I supported the following legislation, which was signed into law by President Bush:

- **VA-HUD Appropriations Act** - Increases total spending for the Department of Veterans Affairs by \$4.3 billion.
- **Veterans Survivor Benefits Improvement Act** - Creates new life insurance and health care benefits for up to two million eligible spouses and children of Veterans.
- **World War II Memorial** - Establishes a national memorial for World War II Veterans on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.
- **Veterans Benefits Act of 2001** - Provides a cost-of-living adjustment and increases the

compensation to disabled Veterans and their survivors by \$2.7 billion over five years.

- **Homeless Veterans Assistance Act** - Authorizes the VA Secretary to establish new housing programs to serve homeless Veterans. Would provide nearly \$60 million for the VA's Homeless Grant and Per Diem Program.
- **21st Century Montgomery GI Bill Enhancement Act** - Increases the Montgomery GI Bill education benefit by 70 percent over three years.

Significant strides were made for Veterans in 2001; however, there is still work to be done. Currently, retired Veterans do not receive compensation for service-connected disabilities concurrently with retirement pay. That is why I cosponsored H.R. 303, legislation to end this unfair practice and provide Veterans with the benefits they deserve.

In 2001, I voted for passage of the Veterans Hospital Emergency Repair Act which authorizes \$550 million to repair dilapidated and obsolete medical facilities, addressing patient safety, privacy and accommodation for disabled Veterans. This legislation awaits further action by the U.S. Senate in 2002.

Additionally, I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1205, a bill directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in Northeast Florida. Out of the four national cemeteries in Florida, two are full, one only accepts cremated remains, and one is being expanded to accept cremated remains.

I will continue to work with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that Veterans receive the health care and other benefits they deserve.



Crenshaw with U.S. veteran Harry Buffone talking about veterans issues.



Crenshaw speaking at an event honoring Veterans with Rear Admiral Jan C. Gaudio and Captain Gerald Seely.

